

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1-9 and add new claims 10-16 as set forth in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the~~ breaking separation of at least one bearing cap (2) from a corresponding thrust block (4) in ~~the~~ a bearing assembly (6) of an engine ~~eases case~~ provided with bearing bores (8) ~~which are arranged in-line, in particular crankshaft cases for reciprocating piston engines~~ the method comprising the steps of,  
  
~~in which method~~ inserting an extension mandrel (10) comprising two half-mandrels (12, 14) ~~is introduced~~ into at least one bearing bore (8), and  
  
clamping said bearing cap between a corresponding half-mandrel and a fixing means to secure said bearing cap against rotation, while allowing said bearing cap to be freely movable to a limited degree in the direction of breaking separation, and  
  
moving said half-mandrels (12, 14) ~~are moved~~ apart to produce a breaking separation force between said thrust block (4) and said bearing cap (2),  
  
~~characterized in that clamping said bearing cap (2) is clamped in such a way between a corresponding half mandrel (12) and a fixing means (22) as to be secured against rotation, though such as to be freely movable to a limited degree in the direction of breaking separation.~~
2. (Currently Amended) A device (1) ~~for the~~ configured to perform breaking separation of at least one bearing cap (2) from ~~said~~ a corresponding thrust block (4) in ~~the~~ a bearing assembly (6) of an engine ~~eases case~~ provided with bearing bores (8) ~~which are arranged in-line, in particular crankshaft cases for reciprocating piston engines,~~ comprising

an extension mandrel (10) ~~that can be inserted~~ insertable into at least one of said bearing bores (8) and ~~which~~ said extension mandrel has two half-mandrels (12, 14).

an expander (16) for moving said half-mandrels (12, 14) apart, said expander taking effect between said half-mandrels (12, 14),

~~characterized in that~~

at least two gripping means (18, 20) ~~are provided~~, said gripping means being couplable to said half-mandrel (12) corresponding to said at least one bearing cap, and

a fixing means (22) ~~is provided, said fixing means being securely~~ connected to said at least two gripping means (18, 20),

wherein said at least one bearing cap (2) being clampable between said corresponding half-mandrel (12) and said fixing means (22) ~~in such a way that~~ and a unit ~~consisting of comprising~~ said corresponding half-mandrel, (12) ~~with~~ said gripping means, (18, 20) ~~as well as~~ said fixing means (22) and said clamped bearing cap (2) is supported in a freely movable manner to a limited degree, though secured against rotation, in the direction of breaking separation.

3. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said half-mandrel (12) corresponding to said bearing cap (2), comprises at least one recess (24) ~~and/or~~ or at least one projection engageable with ~~which~~ said gripping means (18, 20) ~~engage~~.
4. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 2 ~~or 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said half-mandrel (12) corresponding to said bearing cap (2) comprises, at its periphery on mutually facing sides, tangentially extending insertion slots (26) for said gripping means (18, 20), said slots being ~~preferably~~ in communication with said at least one recess (24).

5. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said at least one recess (24), when viewed in ~~an~~ the axial direction of said extension mandrel (10), is positioned axially adjacent to said insertion slots (26) in each case and merges into said slots.
6. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said gripping means (18, 20) are formed by a first and a second pincer, each of the first and the second pincers that preferably each comprise fixed jaws (28), said jaws having, at their ends, engagement members (30) facing towards one another.
7. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said engagement members (30) engage with said at least one recess (24) within said half-mandrel (12) corresponding to said bearing cap (2) or engage behind said at least one projection.
8. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said fixing means (22) connected to said gripping means (18, 20) comprises at least one force-actuated detent (32).
9. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least two detents (32, 34) ~~that are spaced apart from one another are provided~~, said detents acting upon said bearing cap (2) ~~preferably~~ at that side which is opposite said corresponding half-mandrel (12).
10. (New) A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein the engine case comprises a crankshaft case for a reciprocating piston engine.
11. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the engine case comprises a crankshaft case for a reciprocating piston engine.

12. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein a peripheral portion of the said half mandrel corresponding to said bearing cap comprises tangentially extending insertion slots at mutually facing sides.
13. (New) A method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said half mandrel corresponding to said bearing cap further comprises at least one recess.
14. (New) A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the step of clamping includes the step of placing the insertion slots in communication with the at least one recess.
15. (New) A method in accordance with claim 13, further comprising the step of traversing in a sliding manner over the corresponding half mandrel a gripping means.
16. (New) An engine formed in part by breaking separation of at least one bearing cap from a corresponding thrust block in a bearing assembly of an engine case provided with bearing bores arranged in-line, the breaking separation comprising steps of,

inserting an extension mandrel comprising two half-mandrels into at least one bearing bore,

clamping said bearing cap between a corresponding half-mandrel and a fixing means to secure said bearing cap against rotation, while allowing said bearing cap to be freely movable to a limited degree in the direction of breaking separation, and

moving said half-mandrels apart to produce a breaking separation force between said thrust block and said bearing cap.